USDA NRCS
United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

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Fact Sheet

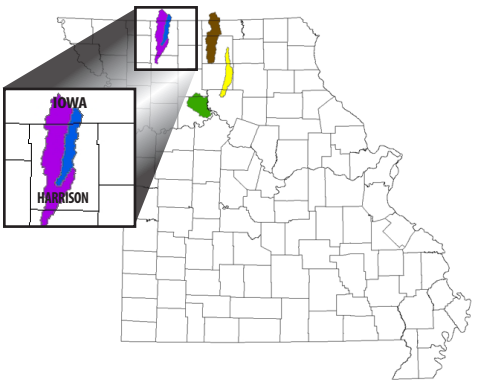
March 2009

East Fork Big Creek Watershed Project

Introduction

This watershed project would continue completion of the proposed project by constructing five small flood water retarding structures under one federal contract at an estimated cost of $450,000.

Funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, this project is part of the Obama Administration's plans to modernize the nation's infrastructure, jumpstart the economy, and create jobs. NRCS is using Recovery Act dollars to update aging flood control structures, protect and maintain water supplies, improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, and restore wetlands. NRCS acquires easements and restores floodplains to safeguard lives and property in areas along streams and rivers that have experienced flooding.



East Fork Big Creek Watershed, shown here in blue, is located in Harrison County of Missouri and Decatur County, Iowa.

Project Description

- **Location:** Harrison County in Missouri, extending into Decatur County Iowa
- **Size:** 62,073 acres
- **Start Date:** March 2010
- **Estimated Completion Date:** December 2010

The East Fork Big Creek Watershed Project plan consists of accelerated land treatment for crop land erosion control, construction of a series of single purpose floodwater retarding dams. To date 72 of 89 single purpose flood water retarding structures have been completed or are under construction.

Partners

- East Fork Big Creek Watershed District
- Decatur County Soil and Water Conservation District (Iowa)
- Decatur County Board of Supervisors (Iowa)
- Harrison County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Harrison County Court

Benefits

This project will have a major environment effect on the watershed problems of soil erosion and floodwater damage.

The entire watershed plan is estimated to:

- reduce floodwater damage to 14,072 acres
- provide grade stabilization to degrading stream channels
- reduce overbank deposition of sediment in wetlands and prime farmlands
- provide net beneficial effects on quality and quantity of wildlife habitat

Economic Opportunities

An estimated 1,200 residents will directly or indirectly benefit in the watershed. An estimated $243,000 in average annual benefits have been realized through FY 2008 from the installation of the 72 single purpose structures. Project funding would provide additional environmental benefits and immediate contracts available for local construction industries and associated businesses within the project's community. Major highways in this watershed cross or intercept the 100-year floodplain in numerous locations. Private and commercial transportation rely heavily on the ability of these routes to remain open for safety and rural commerce reasons.

Helping People Help the Land